international price of cashew kernel during 2001-02, the Indian price of raw cashew-nut during the period has been higher than the prevailing rates during 1997-98 and 1998-99. Under the Centrally sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through work plans assistance is being provided to the farmers for various activities for improving productivity of cashew-nut including assistance to cashew growers for processing and marketing of cashew, particularly in non-traditional areas.

(c) and (d) there has been no indication on the increased requirement of originally produced cashew from the western countries. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed guidelines for organic cultivation of cashew for facilitating the State Governments, including Karnataka to adopt the same. Moreover, under the Macro Management Scheme, the State Governments have been given the flexibility to include programmes as per their felt needs and requirement.

Agriculture extension services in Rajasthan

2780. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the network of agriculture extension services in Rajasthan is inadequate and farmers in that State arc not getting the latest scientific knowledge and technology in Agriculture; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Agricultural extension is state subject. However, the Government of India supports the State in strengthening and augmenting its extension services. The programmes and schemes through which the State extension services arc supported include the following:

(i) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 31 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), rcmandatcd

one Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) at Sriganganagar, established three Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs), one each under Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, Rajasthan Agricultural University (RAU), Bikaner and Maharana Pratap University of Agricultural and Technology (MPUAT), Udaipur and four Institution-Village-Linkage Programme (IVLP) Centres under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP).

(ii) under the Government of India Scheme 'Agricultural Extension through Voluntary Organisations', 5 Non-Government Organisations arc being supported in the districts of Tonk, Udaipur, Jhunjhunu, Barmcr and Jaipur to involve in the process of transfer of new technology.

(iii) The Ministry of Agriculture also supports in organisation of Farmer-Scientist Interactions at the district level and exposure visits of the farmers and extension functionaries to the agriculturally developed areas.

(iv) Extension support is being rendered through vernacular print media/electronic media and Kisan mclas through the State Agricultural University.

(v) A Central Sector Scheme of Women in Agriculture is in operation in the district of Udaipur since 1993-94 to provide recurrent training in crop husbandry, animal husbandry, livestock, horticulture and allied areas.

(vi) Training support is provided with regard to farm machinery by the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes (FMT & TIs) located at Budni (M.P.), Hissar (Haryana) Garladinnc (A.P.) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam) and in the area of Horticulture under the Central Sector Scheme on Human Resource Development.

(vii) The Central Integrated Pest Management Training Centre is located at Sriganganagar to train the farmers and extension functionaries.